

NOTICE TO CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN AND PROCESSORS

2003 Federal and State Groundfish and California Sheephead Management Measures
that Affect Fishermen in Federal and State Waters¹ off California

NON-TRAWL FISHERY

(Federal Limited Entry² and Open Access; State Nearshore Restricted Access)

March - April

LANDINGS ARE RESTRICTED TO THE SPECIES OR SPECIES GROUPS LISTED IN THIS FLYER!

All Groundfish (exception³) and California Sheephead Fishing With Non-Trawl Gear Is Prohibited Within The Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA).

The actual boundaries of the RCA are defined by depth contours and by a series of straight lines between "way points". The coordinates for the way points are available from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS-SEA-3-5). Vessels with non-trawl gear may transit through the RCA with or without groundfish on board. However, if a vessel fishes for non-groundfish species in the RCA, it may not participate in any groundfish fishing during that trip. Also, there are two cowcod conservation areas located south of Point Conception where fishing for groundfish is highly restricted. See the Federal Register for details.

Oregon border to 40° 10' N (Near Cape Mendocino)

The RCA is defined by a series of straight lines between "way points" approximating the waters between 27 and 100 fathom depth contours.

40° 10' N to Mexico border

The RCA is defined as the waters between the 20 fathom depth contour and a series of straight lines between "way points" approximating the 150 fathom depth contour along the mainland, islands and seamounts. California regulations refer to this area as the California Rockfish Conservation Area (CRCA)

STATE NEARSHORE RESTRICTED ACCESS PERMIT REQUIRED

CABEZON, GREENLINGS, SHEEPHEAD (CGS)

(Each permittee may only take one limit)

Statewide:

CABEZON

- **CLOSED⁷.**

GREENLINGS

- **CLOSED.**

CALIFORNIA SHEEPHEAD

- **CLOSED.**

CALIFORNIA SCORPIONFISH

- **CLOSED.**

ROCKFISH

BLACK-AND-YELLOW, CHINA, GOPHER, GRASS AND KELP
ROCKFISH (size limits⁴)

North of 40° 10' N:

- No more than 900 pounds may be landed during the 2-month cumulative period. These pounds are cumulative with the non-Restricted Access rockfish nearshore species listed below left.

South of 40° 10' N:

SHALLOW NEARSHORE (same species as listed above and size limits)

- **CLOSED.**

NO STATE PERMIT REQUIRED

ROCKFISH

NEARSHORE

North of 40° 10' N:

- No more than 3,000 pounds may be landed during the 2-month cumulative period.
 - ✓ No more than 900 pounds may be species other than black or blue rockfish. These pounds are cumulative with the Restricted Access rockfish species listed above right.

South of 40° 10' N:

DEEP NEARSHORE

(Black, Blue, Brown, Calico, Copper, Olive, Quillback and Treefish rockfish)

- **CLOSED.**

SHELF

MINOR SHELF, WIDOW and YELLOWTAIL

- North of 40° 10' N: No more than 200 pounds may be landed per month.
- South of 40° 10' N: Closed.

SLOPE

MINOR SLOPE

Oregon border - 38° N:

- Limited Entry & Open Access: No more than 25% of weight of the sablefish landed.

South of 38° N:

- Limited Entry: No more than 30,000 pounds may be landed during the 2-month cumulative period.
- Open Access: No more than 10,000 pounds may be landed during the 2-month cumulative period.

SPLITNOSE

40° 10' N - 38° N:

- Limited Entry: No more than 1,800 pounds may be landed during the 2-month cumulative period.

South of 38° N:

- Limited Entry: No more than 20,000 pounds may be landed during the 2-month cumulative period.

South of 40° 10' N:

- Open Access: No more than 200 pounds may be landed per month.

PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH

North of 40° 10' N:

- Limited Entry: No more than 1,800 pounds may be landed during the 2-month cumulative period.
- Open Access: 100 pounds per month.

THORNYHEADS

- **Limited Entry:** (Statewide) No more than 9,000 pounds longspine thornyhead and 2,000 pounds shortspine thornyhead may be landed during the 2-month cumulative period.
- **Open Access:** (South of 34° 27' N only) 50 pound daily trip limit⁶ with a 2-month cumulative limit of 2,000 pounds.

ROUNDFISH

SABLEFISH⁸ (Limited Entry & Open Access)

- North of 36° N: 300 pound daily trip limit⁶ **OR** one landing per fishing week⁹ up to 800 pounds, with a 2-month cumulative limit of 3,200 pounds.
- South of 36° N: 350 pound daily trip limit⁶ **OR** one landing per fishing week⁹ up to 1,050 pounds.

LINGCOD

- **CLOSED.**

FLATFISH

ALL FLATFISH

- **Limited Entry:** 5,000 pounds per month.
- **Open Access:** 3,000 pounds per month, no more than 300 pounds of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs.

Sanddab fishing south of 40° 10' N is allowed in the RCAs when using hook & line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 11 mm point to shank, and up to 1 pound of weight per line. No other groundfish may be retained or landed.

OTHER GROUNDFISH¹²

- Not Limited.

NOTES: 1. California adopts federal groundfish regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 189, Commercial Groundfish Fishing)

2. A vessel with a federal limited entry permit endorsed for set longline and/or trap may fish in the open access fishery using a gear other than the endorsement gear; however, the vessel will be held to limited entry limits even if the open access limit is larger. If the open access limit is smaller than the limited entry limit, the vessel cannot land more than the open access limit using non-endorsed gear; the remainder of the limited entry limit may be taken with the endorsed gear.

3. Pacific sanddabs may be fished inside the RCA following the restrictions in the Flatfish section.

4. Black-and-yellow, gopher, and kelp rockfish have a 10-inch total length minimum size limit. China and grass rockfish have a 12-inch total length minimum size limit.

5. The 2-month fishing periods are: January-February; March-April; May-June; July-August; September-October; November-December.

6. Daily Trip Limit – The maximum amount of groundfish that may be taken and retained, possessed, or landed per vessel in 24 consecutive hours, starting at 0001 hours local time. Only one landing of groundfish shall be made in that 24-hour period. Daily trip limits shall not be accumulated during multiple day trips.

7. Closure means that taking and retaining, possessing, or landing the particular species or species group is prohibited.

8. Sablefish trip limits are in round weight equivalent. California allows dressed weight to be reported on landing receipts. If so reported, the receipts must be marked with the code (02) for "dressed head off" in the condition column. The equivalent round weight is computed by multiplying 1.6 times the dressed weight.

9. A fishing week is 7 consecutive days from 0001 Sunday through 2400 Saturday.

10. Groundfish species or species groups for which there is a trip limit, size limit, or OY (optimum yield) must be sorted prior to weighing and the weight reported separately on the Fish and Game receipt.

11. Landing receipts for groundfish and CGS must be maintained onboard the vessel during and for 15 days after the end of the cumulative limit period during which the landings occurred (63 FR 34606) (Fish & Game Code 8046.1).

12. Other Groundfish: leopard and soupfin shark, spiny dogfish; big, California and longnose skate; ratfish; finescale codling; and grenadier.

13. Operating in areas with different trip limits. If a vessel; a.) fishes for any groundfish species or species group in an area where a more restrictive limit applies before fishing in an area where a more liberal limit or no limit applies; or b.) takes and retains a groundfish species or species group in an area where a more liberal or no limit applies and takes an retains, possesses or lands that species or species group in an area where a more restrictive limit applies; then the vessel is subject to the more restrictive limit for the period.

If you have any questions about these regulations, please contact either:

Mike Fukushima, Eureka @ (707) 441-5797, Dave Thomas, Belmont @ (510) 581-7358, Brenda Erwin, Belmont @ (650) 631-6740
Susan Ashcraft, Belmont @ (650) 631-6786, Steve Wertz, Los Alamitos @ (562) 342-7184, or Tom Barnes, La Jolla @ (858) 546-7167.

For updates check out PFMC's web page @ www.pcouncil.org or for

NMFS NW Region <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1sustfish/gftest.htm>

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/regulations.html>

California Department of Fish and Game – Marine Region

